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EPA planning aerial photo dump search

Citizen complaints claim more waste sites exist

By ANN PATTERSON-RABON
Staff Writer

Within the next few weeks, representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency will be taking aerial photographs of Cherokee County to determine if there are more toxic waste sites hidden in the county.

"We've been getting a lot of complaints alleging there's a lot of dumps all over the county," said Greg Fraley, a regional EPA official. He said his organization wants to find out for sure how many dumps exist and where they are.

Fraley has been investigating four sites — Atkins, High Point, Burnt Gin and Medley — in an effort to have them combined as one site for the purpose of place-

ment on the national priority list. Placement on the list is necessary for eligibility of Superfund clean-up money.

"Individually none of the sites would probably make it," said Fraley, "but together they stand a good chance."

According to Fraley, this is the first time combining sites has been attempted in this region and, as far as he knows, the first time it's been attempted anywhere.

"Because of the possibility of the same person being responsible for the four sites and because of their close proximity, there's a very good chance the sites can be combined," he said.

Fraley indicated that he should know what sites will be combined together after the first of April.

